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Report of the International Court of Justice

Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/58/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 15 of the Terms of Reference, Guidelines and Rules of the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice[1] issued at the time of the establishment of the Fund (for the previous report, see A/57/373).

II. Mandate

2. The Trust Fund was established in 1989 by the Secretary-General under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations following consultations with the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In accordance with the Terms of Reference, financial assistance is to be provided to States for expenses incurred in connection with (a) a dispute submitted to the International Court of Justice by way of a special agreement or (b) the execution of a judgment of the Court resulting from such special agreement.

III. Beneficiaries

3. The Fund is open to all States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and to non-member States having complied with the conditions stipulated in Security Council resolution 9 (1946) of 15 October 1946.

4. During the period under review, i.e., 1 January 2002 to 30 June 2003, the Fund did not receive any application.

IV. Contributions

5. Voluntary contributions to the Fund may be made by States, intergovernmental organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons.

6. During the period under review, two States contributed to the Fund, as listed below.

State	*Amount ($)*	*Financial year*
Finland	20 156.87	2002
Mexico	4 855.50	2002
Total	25 012.37	

7. As at 31 July 2003, the total balance of the Fund was US$ 1,863,162.00. This amount excludes awards which have already been paid.

[1] A/47/444, annex.

V. Needs assessment

8. The Charter of the United Nations recognizes the settlement of international disputes "by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law" as one of the basic purposes of the United Nations and as an essential tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the Organization. As noted above, the Fund was created with a view to facilitating a decision by parties to a dispute to seek judicial settlement of their dispute through ICJ. Despite numerous appeals by the Secretary-General, the most recent of which was made in a circular note from the Legal Counsel to Member States dated 28 March 2003, the Fund has had decreasing resources since its inception. States and other relevant entities are therefore urged once again to give serious consideration to making contributions to the Fund, not only in a substantial manner but also on a regular basis.

9. With a view to encouraging States to apply for grants from the Fund, a review of the existing procedures governing the use of the Fund is being undertaken in consultation with the Registry of the Court and the Controller. In addition, a web site providing access to the Terms of Reference and the Secretary-General's reports in all languages has been set up. It may be accessed at http://www.un.org/law/trustfund/trustfund.htm.

VI. How to contribute?

10. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer to:

Account number:	485-001969
Account name:	United Nations General Trust Fund Account
Bank name:	Chase Manhattan Bank
Location:	1166 Avenue of Americas 17th Floor New York, NY 10036-2708
ABA number:	021-000-021
SWIFT code:	CHASUS33

11. Contributions can also be made by cheque to the order of the United Nations. Cheques should be sent to:

Cashier's Office
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

The cheque should indicate that it is for "the ICJ Trust-Fund", account code TJA.

12. For any additional information, please contact the Office of the Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. Telephone: + 1 212 963 5350; fax: + 1 212 963 6430.